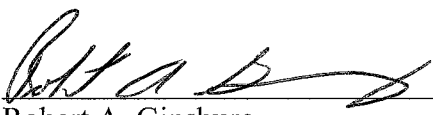


MEMORANDUM

Not On
Agenda Item No. 7(D)(2)(A)

TO:	Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. and Members, Board of County Commissioners	DATE:	November 6, 2003
FROM:	Robert A. Ginsburg County Attorney	SUBJECT:	Resolution supporting a Tri-County application to the State of Florida to obtain the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany for use as an artificial reef

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro.

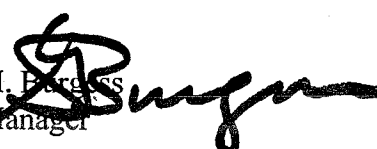

Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

RAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. and Members, Board of County Commissioners **DATE:** November 6, 2003

FROM: George M. Burgess, County Manager  **SUBJECT:** Resolution supporting a Tri-County application to the State of Florida to obtain the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany for use as an artificial reef

This is to provide the Board background information regarding a planned joint application by Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) to obtain the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany from the United States Navy. If the application is successful, the aircraft carrier would be sunk offshore on the Miami-Dade/Broward County line as an artificial reef to create an ecotourism destination for fishing and diving.

The potential to generate regional economic benefits by creating ecotourism destinations through the placement of unique artificial reefs is being more frequently recognized. A recently completed socioeconomic study conducted by Hazen and Sawyer, a consulting firm, in 2001 estimated that recreational use of the artificial reefs in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties had an annual impact of \$1.655 billion, and created over 26,000 jobs for the region. In Miami-Dade County alone, artificial reef usage provided a net economic impact of \$419 million annually.

The sinking of exceptionally large artificial reefs provides an even greater attraction for fishing and diving. In 2001, Monroe County placed the 510' long Navy ship "Speigel Grove" offshore of Key Largo specifically to create a diving destination. While the economic impact of this reef is still being quantified, preliminary indications are that the results will be significant. Similarly, other large military vessels sunk as reefs in other areas of the country have shown significant local and regional benefits.

A pilot program is currently being conducted by the United States Navy to evaluate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of cleaning up decommissioned military vessels, and transferring them at little or no cost to coastal states for use as artificial reefs. The first vessel targeted for this program is the 888'-long aircraft carrier USS Oriskany. Under this program the vessel would be cleaned

to meet EPA and Coast Guard requirements and awarded to a coastal state through an application process based on various criteria. The Navy has indicated that they will accept only one application per state, submitted through the state's respective artificial reef program.

In Florida, five counties (Escambia, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade) originally expressed interest in obtaining the Oriskany. A preliminary evaluation by the state's artificial reef program, administered within the FFWCC, recommended that the aircraft carrier go to Escambia County if Florida were awarded the vessel. Since that time the board of the FFWCC has agreed to revisit that decision based on newly released evaluation criteria by the Navy. Presentations to the FFWCC Board will be made by interested counties on November 14, 2003, and a decision made immediately thereafter.

In order to put forth the strongest possible application and maximize the chances of securing the Oriskany as an artificial reef for southeast Florida, the artificial reef programs of Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties have agreed to submit a joint application to the FFWCC. Under this proposal, the vessel would be sunk at an already permitted artificial reef site straddling the Miami-Dade/ Broward line. A task force to address the various aspects of this very complex project has already been established, consisting of county representatives, Visitor and Convention Bureau and Tourist Development Council members from all three counties, a private non-profit organization which has been actively involved in working to obtain the Oriskany as an artificial reef for over two years, and private individuals with relevant expertise. The task force is currently working on the presentation to the FFWCC on November 14th, 2003. If the southeast Florida application is selected by the FFWCC as the recommended destination, that application will be submitted to the United States Navy prior to their November 20, 2003 deadline, where it will be considered along with application from other coastal states including Texas and South Carolina. If Florida is selected by the Navy, the ship would be transferred to the State following clean up. At this time, clean up, transportation and sinking of the carrier would be conducted by Navy personnel at Federal cost. While these elements of the project are expected to be fully funded by the Navy, there potentially would be some non-federal costs for additional preparation for diving safety and/or local environmental requirements. An estimate of these potential costs and funding scenarios is currently being prepared by the task force, and would be quantified prior to award of the vessel. If our tri-county application is successful, any resulting agreement, including non-federal costs, would be presented to this Board for approval.

Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
Page 3

The potential economic impact of creating what would be the world's largest artificial reef is enormous. A preliminary estimate prepared by the Greater Miami Visitor and Convention Bureau last month estimates a net impact of over \$320 million annually. The study also estimated the reef would create an additional 4,447 jobs, and generate in excess of \$17.3 million in state and local sales tax revenues annually. These estimates were made for Miami-Dade County only; the anticipated regional impact including Broward and Palm Beach Counties would be significantly higher.



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 6, 2003

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

Not On

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 7(D)(2)(A)

Please note any items checked.

- ☒ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☒ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

5

Approved _____ Mayor

Veto _____

Override _____

Not On
Agenda Item No. 7(D)(2)(A)
11-6-03

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TRI-COUNTY APPLICATION
TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO OBTAIN THE AIRCRAFT
CARRIER USS ORISKANY FOR USE AS AN ARTIFICIAL
REEF AND REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA
SELECT OUR TRI-COUNTY APPLICATION FOR
SUBMITTAL TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY

WHEREAS, tourism constitutes the largest and most critical sector of Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, in order to sustain and enhance the value of the tourism industry to Florida and to stimulate economic development, tourism-related decisions should be viewed from a statewide perspective, with the goal of maximizing the net economic gain to the State; and

WHEREAS, ecotourism associated with recreational diving and fishing continues to be a rapidly growing activity throughout many areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, creating ecotourism destinations by the establishment of unique artificial reefs can have enormous economic impacts, both at the State and local level, as evidenced by the sinking of the Spiegel Grove in Monroe County, and a recently completed socioeconomic study indicating that existing artificial reefs in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties have a \$1.655 billion economic impact annually and create over 26,000 jobs for the region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy is initiating a pilot program of disposing of decommissioned warships by preparing them for use as artificial reefs and donating them at little or no cost to eligible coastal states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy is currently in the process of making the USS Oriskany, an 880-foot long decommissioned aircraft carrier, available to eligible states for use as an artificial reef; and

WHEREAS, each eligible state can submit only one proposed location as part of its application to the Navy; and

WHEREAS, given the enormous potential economic impact to Florida from having the USS Oriskany as an ecotourism destination, the State's decision on where to propose locating the artificial reef should be based primarily on the potential of each location for generating beneficial economic impacts to the State; and

WHEREAS, within the next thirty days, Florida must select a proposed location within the State as part of its application to the Navy for the USS Oriskany; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons and those further reasons contained in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference, this Board wishes to support the application being submitted by Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties to propose locating the USS Oriskany in the waters off South Florida and to encourage the State to submit this application to the Navy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board supports the submittal of a tri-county application to the State of Florida to obtain the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany for use as an artificial reef and requests that the State of Florida select this application for submittal to the Navy.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro and offered
by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded
by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as
follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson	
Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Betty T. Ferguson	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Jimmy L. Morales
Dennis C. Moss	Dorrin D. Rolle
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day
of November, 2003. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its
adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an
override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Susan Torres

